

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1688

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: REMARKS OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO

SUMMARY. IN MY LATEST MEETING WITH HIM, PRESIDENT SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO VISIT AS INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY, WILL NOT MAKE IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS, DOES NOT EXPECT "INSTANT SOLUTIONS" BUT RATHER ANTICIPATES FRANK EXCHANGE ABOUT COMMON PROBLEMS AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT HUMAN PLIGHT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND HIS AWARENESS THAT PROBLEM OF ILLEGALS IS SERIOUS ONE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. I MADE FORMAL FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO FEBRUARY 10, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM THOMPSON. PRESIDENT WAS OBVIOUSLY MOVING THROUGH A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITORS BUT LOOKED FIT AND RELAXED AND WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND AFFABLE THROUGHOUT OUR HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW. HE MADE EXTENDED REMARKS IN THE MOST FLATTERING TERMS ON MY TENUR IN MEXICO. HE NOTED HIS DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS AND ASSURED THOMPSON THAT HE WOULD BE READILY ACCESSIBLE DURING HIS TENURE AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRS, GIVEN HIS DESIRE TO PREVENT MINOR ISSUES FROM BECOMING LARGE PROBLEMS.

2. TURNING TO HIS STATE VISIT TO THE U.S., THE PRESI-

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DENT SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO IT AS AN INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE VIEWS THIS EXCHANGE AS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR MEXICO AND VERY MUCH HOPES THAT THE VISIT WILL GO WELL. THE PRESIDENT GAVE ASSURANCE THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LEVYING IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS IN WASHINGTON. HE RECOGNIZES THAT IN THE WIDE RANGE OF US-MEXICAN INTERACTIONS,

IT IS ILLUSORY TO HOPE FOR "INSTANT SOLUTIONS" AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT THEM. RATHER, HE SAID, HE HOPES FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE ABOUT OUR COMMON PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A BASIS FOR DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE CITED THE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN "ILLEGALS" IN THE U.S. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE HUMAN PLIGHT OF THESE PERSONS WHEN APPREHENDED AND DEPORTED, AND OF THEIR FAMILIES FROM WHOM THEY ARE OFTEN SEPARATED IN THE PROCESS. HE ARTICULATED HIS AWARENESS THAT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S. IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

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